Department of Science and Technology at the request of State Government formulated a comprehensive proposal indicating the core research activities, the estimated cost and the possible financial patterns and mechanism.The said proposal has also been forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs for seeking external funding to the tune of Rs. 130 crores for a period of five years.

The Gujarat State Government has recently informed that the State is taking steps to establish the proposed Institute through its internal resources and external assistance. A Director General to head that Institute has also been appointed. During the last two year, the Department of Science & Technology has also supported several research projects in Gujarat area for better earthquake hazard assessment.

Discovery of vital evidence on Portuguese shipwrecks

3305. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the marine archaeologists at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) have discovered vital evidence on Portuguese shipwrecks of Goa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A team of marine archaeologists of National Institute of Oceanography has carried out exploration and excavation of shipwrecks off Goa and discovered a Portuguese period shipwreck at Sunchi Reef (Lat: 15° 26N, Long: 73° 46E) which is the oldest shipwreck so far explored in Indian waters. Several artefacts were recovered from the site. The shipwreck findings show the evidence of the Indo-Portuguese trade and commerece.

Jai Vigyan health project

†3306. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government propose to launch Jai Vigyan Health Project in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the names of districts which have been identified for the same in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh; and

(c) whether Government propose to associate private sectors and NGOs also in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Prediction on monsoon

3307. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Meteorological Department's predictions on monsoon rain fall this year are not correct;

(b) whether it is also a fact that predictions of foreign agencies are correct;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Department of Meteorology has failed in providing correct information'and right forecast of monsoon for the last several years;

(d) if so, what are the main factors responsible for this; and

(e) how Government propose to improve the work efficiency of the Indian agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) No, Sir. India